

# IDAHOANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Idahoans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Idaho. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Idaho.*

## **INCOME: IDAHOANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Idaho was \$ 42,286.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Idaho was \$ 45,009, a modest increase of 6.4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN IDAHO CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Idaho had 198,000 adults without insurance (15.4 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Idaho had 222,000 adults without insurance (15.4 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Idaho had 21,839 children benefit from the SCHIP program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN IDAHO**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Idaho was \$6,763.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$9,066, a 34 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- Number of Idahoans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 18,516<sup>8</sup>
- Number of Idahoans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 13,781<sup>9</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR IDAHO RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Idaho was \$1.448 a gallon.<sup>10</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Idaho is \$2.794 a gallon.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Idaho was \$2,126.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Idaho is \$4,101, \$1,976 (93 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>13</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: IDAHOANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security beneficiaries in Idaho – 219,250<sup>14</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per beneficiary in Idaho – \$854<sup>15</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: IDAHOANS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Idahoans killed in Iraq – 16<sup>16</sup>
- Number of Idahoans wounded in Iraq – 176<sup>17</sup>
- Number of Idahoans wounded in Afghanistan – 4<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Idaho – 133,183<sup>19</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING IDAHO'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 93 estates in Idaho paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>20</sup>
- Only 17 estates in Idaho will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>21</sup>
- In contrast, 39,000 workers in Idaho would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.<sup>22</sup>

## **CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN IDAHO IS ON THE RISE**

- Number of Violent Crimes in Idaho per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 252.5<sup>23</sup>
- Number of Violent Crimes in Idaho per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 256.8<sup>24</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding dispersed in 2002 – \$4,249,136<sup>25</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding dispersed in 2006 – \$406,140<sup>26</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST IDAHOANS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Idahoans.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Idaho residents each received an average of \$2,184 in tax cuts, while middle class Idaho residents received only \$369.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Idaho residents will receive an average of \$28,614 in tax cuts, while middle class Idaho residents will only receive \$658.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Idaho residents will each receive an average of \$51,747 in tax cuts, while middle class Idaho residents will only receive \$769.<sup>29</sup>

**The richest Idahoans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Idahoans received 5.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.1 percent of the tax cut.<sup>30</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Idahoans will get 22.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.4 percent of the tax cut.<sup>31</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Idahoans will get 37.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Idahoans.**

- In 2010, the richest Idahoans will receive an average of \$9,667 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Idahoans will be getting over 45.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>33</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Idahoans will receive an average of \$37 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>34</sup>

### **SOURCES**

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